Directors and also by the Government nominee in Indian Airlines; and

(b) whether the new Chairman-cum-M an aging Director of Indian Airlines has been appointed and if so, for what period?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MA-DHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The Chair-man-cum-Managing Director be'ng the Chief Executive of the Corporation is responsible for the overall superintendence -and management of the affairs of Indian Airlines under the superintendence and in accordance with policy guidance of the Board of Directors. All members of the Board of Directors of Indian airlines are nominated by the Government.

(b) The post of Chairman-cum-Ma-nagmg Director is presently held by a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. A regular incumbent is being appointed in consultation with the public Enterprises Selection Board.

**Premium on Exim Scrips**

762. SHRI VTREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to rtate:

(a) whether Government are considering about the formulation of a negative list of import items, Exim Scrip route list, and also a Government list:

(b) if so. what are the details thereof;

(<!l) whether tUe exporting commn-nity has been demanding that Government should initiate measures to moderate the fall in premium on Exim Scrip and strengthen the Exim Scrip route so as to enable it *U>* command a reasonable premium;

(d) if so, what are their main demands; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) It has been decided to bring out a new Import and Export Policy effective from April, 1992. Suggestions received from various quarters in this regard will be kept in view while formulating the Policy. It is premature to furnish details thereof at this stage.

**Tea plantation in Orissa**

763. SHRI JAGAD1SH JANI: Wffl the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the areas brought under tea plantation in Orissa, so far;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to bring additional areas m the state under tea plantation during the Eighth Plan period;

fc) if so, which areas identified to undertake tea plantation during Eighth Plan; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) So far, an area of 213 hectares has been brought under tea cultivation in the Keonjhar district of Orissa,

(b) to (d) Preliminary reports indicate that about 2800 hectares of land suitable for tea cultivation would be available in the Kalahandi and Phul-bani districts. However, no fresh proposal has been received from the State of Orissa for taking up tea plantations in these areas.

**Bifurcation of Spices Board**

765. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the the Minister of COMMERCE be pleas-to Hate:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to bifurcate the Spices Board; and

(b) whether Government propose to announce an increased support price, for

various items that come under the Spices Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No' Sir.

**Central assistance to export promotion councils**

765. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to terminate central assistance to the various export promotion councils in a phased manner;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the withdrawal of annual grants to these councils; and

(c) what will be the impact of such decision on India's export promotion efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decision to phase out the grant to the Export Promotion Councils was taken to make the Councils self supporting.

(c) There will be no impart on India's export promotion efforts as the Councils will become self supporting.

**Export of Agricultural commodities**

766. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of exports of agricultural commodities during the years 1984-85 to 1989-90 yearwise; with percentage growth;

(b) whether the agricultural exports are stagnating; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to boost exports of agricultural commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yearwsse details of export of agricultural commodities, as also the growth achieved in exports as compared to previous year's export during the period 1984-85 to 1989-90 are given below:—

| Year | Export (Rs. crores) | %Growth in exports over previous year's exports | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1984 85 | 1163.90 | — | — |
| 1985-86 | 1206.68 | (+) | 3.68% |
| 1986-87 | 1539.51 | (+) | 27.58% |
| 1987-88 | 1801.61 | (+) | 17.03% |
| 1988-89 | 1921.47 | (+) | 6.65% |
| 1989-90 | 2578.71 | (+) | 34.21% |